

March 2006

The Voice of the East Row Historic Foundation is published monthly and paid for by the East Row Historic Foundation (ERHF). Diverse, responsible commentary is encouraged. All opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily express those of the ERHF or its officers.

Articles, editorials, or calendar items should be dropped off at 401 E. 7th Street or emailed to Voice@EastRow.org

Submissions must be signed to be considered for publication. The editors reserve the right to edit or reject submissions due to length, content or appropriateness.

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Jim Clinkenbeard,
Bev Holiday, Roger Stephens,
Pat Budd, David Ginsburg,
Chris Lane & Linda Martin,
Julie Smith Morrow,
Joy Galbraith, Carla Ballard

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

Send articles to:

Voice@EastRow.org

Next Meeting:

Joint meeting for Gateway and Mansion Hill neighborhoods
Tuesday, March 7, 7:30p.m.,
St. Mark Lutheran Church,
Corner of Monroe & Eighth Sts.

East Row Historic Foundation Officers:

Chair:

Jeff Ballard,

Chair@EastRow.org

Secretary:

Virginia Claypool

Treasurer:

Monica Stephenson

Gateway Rep:

Mary Jo Gerwe

Mansion Hill Rep:

Joyce Chastang



Gateway

The Voice



Mansion Hill

OF THE East Row Historic Foundation

Volume 7

Issue 3

Bear Creek Meeting Delayed

The Bear Creek presentation for the February East Row Historic Foundation was delayed at least a month. At present, Bear Creek has accepted an invitation to speak in the future in a moderated and orderly meeting for East Row Historic District residents. 🐾

Join Us at the St. Paul's Concerts

by Pat Budd

Please join us for the continuing 2005-2006 concert series at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 7 Court Place at the corner of York Street in Newport. Concerts will begin at 3:00 pm and an English style tea in the church will follow recitals. There is no charge for the concerts and the tea.

Concerts Include:

March 12: Ms. Zara Lawler, nationally recognized concerto soloist and former member of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, with a solo flute recital.

April 23: Ms. Audrey Causilla with a solo piano recital.

May 28: Ms. Bonna Whiting Smith in a solo percussion recital.

For information about the concerts, call the church at 859-581-7640 🐾

Foundation Approves Slate of Officers

by Bruce Murray

At the February Meeting, The Nominating Committee for the East Row Historic Foundation, Jeff Ballard, Nancy Stephens, John Morrow and Julie Smith Morrow, presented a slate of nominees for election to East Row Historic Foundation officers. Nominees up for election at the March meeting are:

President: Joyce Chastang

Mansion Hill Representative: To be determined

Gateway Representative: Mary Jo Gerwe

Secretary: Pat Budd

Treasurer: Monica Stephenson

Other nominations will be taken from the floor before elections are held at the meeting on March 7 at 7:30 pm. To be eligible to run for office a person must have attended at least four meetings during the past year. However, this requirement may be waived by a special vote of the membership. To be eligible to vote, a member must have attended at least two meetings during the past year. 🐾





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Calling All Artists

by Roger Stephens

Linda Velten at BUECKER IRON WORKS and I, Roger, at TOGETHER, are curating an exhibition of works of Newport artists in the spring, possibly to coincide with the East Row Garden Tour. If you are an artist living/working in Newport and would like to be included in the exhibit please get in touch with one of us.

I can be reached at nstephens@fuse.net, or 581-9100 / 491-1664.

We may include a fund-raiser in the opening to be held at BUECKER; if so, proceeds will benefit the art program at Fourth Street Elementary School, which recently received statewide recognition. 🐾

“Boomers” to Open in March!

by Chris Lane and Linda Martin

If you're a “Baby Boomer”, between the ages of 42-60, give or take a few years, a new place of entertainment, just for you will open in Newport soon. Beginning on March 11, “Boomers” Dance Club will open at the Newport Syndicate's Ambassador Room, formerly Cicero's, on 5th Street.

Boomers is a mostly non smoking dance club with dance music from the 50's to the early 90's. A \$10 admission at the door provides both membership and your first drink. So they can better estimate the number of people who will come to opening night, the proprietors have asked people to go to their web site, boomersdanceclub.com and send an RSVP. Singles and couples are welcome to the club. If you don't have access to the web site you can call 859-291-0227, or you'll be welcome if you just show up. On March 11, music will be provided by a DJ from McFadden Music.

This club is planned to open only one Saturday each month, so visit the web site, click the RSVP button and make plans to be there on Saturday, March 11 starting at 9 pm until 1:30 am. 🐾

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Walking the talk in Downtown Cincinnati

by David Ginsburg

Recently, I was gratified to hear from a Newport East Row resident who declared that he had done most of his holiday shopping downtown—and almost all on foot! He tries to stay in shape by regularly walking downtown and gets things done while he exercises. His story provided me with another inspiring example of the benefits of city living, and an opportunity to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in such an accessible city.

Downtown Cincinnati of the 21st century is taking shape before our eyes in the form of major renovation projects involving Fountain Square, Government Square, the Convention Center, and thriving downtown residential developments.

I invite Northern Kentucky residents to witness this transformation while taking in more than 200 unique specialty shops (including the region's only Tiffany, Saks, Brooks Brothers, and many other others), 40 full-fare restaurants, and our world-class arts and cultural institutions. There is also convenient shopping at downtown's Tower Place Mall, Carew Tower, and TJ Maxx, as well as a growing number of businesses focused on serving downtown residents—including C'est Bon gourmet takeout on 5th Street. (And if you walk, you can enjoy dessert from the new Embrace Sweets on Main...try the brownies!)

The Fountain Square district is about a 30-minute walk from Newport. If focusing your walk around the central business district is more your speed, you can take advantage of convenient schedules from TANK and the Southbank Shuttle. There is plenty of convenient and affordable parking downtown (including 2 hours for \$1 lots). Or, you can now experience a new kind of “pedal” to the metal and take a fun River Rat pedicab.

I hope you will join me and my friend from Newport's East Row for a walk in downtown Cincinnati. There has never been a more exciting time to step out and explore your city!

David Ginsburg is President and CEO of Downtown Cincinnati Inc. (DCI), a nonprofit service organization dedicated to making downtown Cincinnati clean, safe, vibrant...and pedestrian friendly! For information on DCI programs and membership, please visit www.downtowncincinnati.com. 🐾

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Remember the Kroger Cards

by Bruce Murray

Treasurer Monica Stephenson reported that Kroger had sent a check for more than \$225 as reimbursement for East Row residents who had made purchases with the neighborhood Kroger Gift cards. Remember that you can earn funds for the East Row Historic Foundation by using a Kroger Gift Card. You can buy these during the East Row Historic Foundation meetings, or ask one of your neighbors who regularly attends the meetings. The East Row Historic Foundation received 4% of all purchases with these gift cards, and there is no extra cost to you. 🐾

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4th School Works to Improve

by Jim Clinkenbeard, 4th Street. School Principal

I am pleased to have the opportunity to share with you the improvement strategies we are implementing at Fourth Street for the 2005-06 school year.

We were fortunate to be awarded a Read to Achieve grant from the KY Dept. of Education. With this program, we have been able to assess our grade 1 through 3 students and target those 3 to 4 students per class who have the greatest need. This is a pull-out program taught by our Reading Teacher. Those 3rd graders not serviced by the grant are eligible for tutoring in our HOSTS program that is staffed by community and business volunteers.

ESS, our after-school tutoring program, has been revamped this year to provide additional instruction to students from their own classroom teacher. We currently have fourteen teachers working with students from 1st through 5th grades on remediation primarily in Reading and Math. These teachers are able to maximize this time twice weekly because they already know the students' strengths and weaknesses.

Each morning, the Library is staffed by one of seven teachers who provide ESS Reading assistance to students who arrive early to school.

We have employed a Math consultant, and a Math teacher assistant, to provide specific help to our 5th grade. With the inclusion of more Algebra, probability, fractions, and area measurement, students are having difficulty mastering concepts. We are increasing the overall daily minutes for Math instruction to drill and review for the state assessment this spring.

We have worked steadily to send our teachers and assistants to meaningful professional development opportunities as well as to visit successful area schools where they can observe programs and techniques, review materials, and have dialogue with their peers. Twenty-six teachers have attended these professional opportunities representing a total of seventy-

seven days of training specific to their individual job and responsibilities.

I will inform you of other initiatives in a future article. We appreciate your support for the Newport Independent Schools.

(Editor's note. Volunteers are needed for the 4th Street School HOSTS program. call Ms. Yvette Ferrell at 292-3021.) 🐾

East Row Artist Does Portraits

by Bruce Murray

Cecille LeFan Rodriguez, a Maple Street Resident recently had an exhibit of her portraits at TOGETHER on Park Avenue. Cecille paints portraits on commission either from sittings or from a good photograph. She has had several exhibits since moving to the Cincinnati area in 1995. She has been an East Row resident for eight years.

Cecille also paints "gallery" paintings in an impressionist style influenced by Matisse, Pierre Bonard and Gustave Klimt.

She received a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Texas, Arlington in 1987 and an MBA from Xavier in 2000. She is currently working on teacher certification at Xavier and is a member of the Kennedy Heights Arts Guild at 6546 Montgomery Avenue in Cincinnati, where her work will be exhibited on May 14.

To view some of her work, or commission a portrait visit her web site at portraitsbycecille.com

(Editor's note. This is the first of a series of articles on East Row Artists) If you know of an artist living in the East Row Historic District, let us know at voice@eastrow.org) 🐾

Garden Club Notes

by Carla Ballard

For the February meeting, The East Row Garden Club was a guest at the Newport Aquarium, courtesy of Eric Rose, who is a new East Row resident and Executive Director of the Newport Aquarium.

We heard a presentation by Ric Urban, horticulturist at the Aquarium, about the live tropical plantings in the Rainforest Exhibit.

The club is still searching for an appropriate permanent site for future meetings and seeking gardens for the 2006 East Row Garden Tour.

Our next meeting is Tuesday March 21 at 6:30 pm probably at the Levee Perk at 529 Overton Street with a presentation by John Duke, President of the Compost Society.

All Newport residents are welcome to be members of East Row Garden Club or to just attend meetings. 🐾

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Levee Perk Reopens

by *Bev Holiday*

Ella Karcher and Amy Moses have reopened The Levee Perk (Formerly on York Street) at 529 Overton Street, former location of MorningStar Café, on Monday, February 13 for eat-in or carry out! Hours are Monday-Friday— 7 am-3 pm, serving breakfast and lunch daily with private label coffees and teas. Food options include: gourmet pretzels with various toppings, omelets, wraps, breakfast sandwiches, yogurt, granola and more. Phone 859-991-8540. They close in the afternoon to support their catering business. Join your neighbors and support this local business. Watch for Friday lunch specials starting March 3, and continuing through Lent. 🍀

Shop on St. Patrick's Day

by *Joy Galbraith*

Celebrate St. Paddy's Day Early by "Stepping Up to Historic Newport". The "Wearin of the Green" will save you "Green", in Historic Newport Downtown. On the weekend of March 11, businesses in Historic Newport will be offering "Green Specials". Music and Green Beer at Monmouth Theatre. St. Patrick Day Hats & Beads at Costume Gallery. Green Fish in the Tanks at Indoor Outdoor Aquatics. Green Depression Glass at Taylor's Landing Antiques. There will be many specials at local businesses. Join us for a fun day in Historic Newport Downtown.

"Unique businesses come in small boxes". Historic Downtown Newport offers a unique blend of shopping, dining, and entertainment opportunities. The objectives of the Newport Downtown Cooperative include creating a visitor-friendly environment by coordinating marketing strategies to complement those of the City of Newport. 🍀



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East Row Historic District Expansion Update

by *Julie Smith Morrow*

Through open discussions with Newport residents, the Newport Historic Preservation, and Planning and Zoning Commissions are considering including three areas with significant and contributing historical structures in the local East Row Historic District. The aim is to reach independent decisions on including each area in the district, using a process which requires approval by the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission and, finally, the City Board of Commissioners.

The areas being considered include (1) the 900 blocks of Park Avenue and Monroe Street, (2) the north 300 and entire 500 blocks of East Second Street and (3) the "Washington corridor" - blocks of Washington Avenue not currently included, the 200 block of East Fourth Street, and the 200 block of East Ninth Street.

The encouraging news begins with the Park Avenue and Monroe Street area, which has been recommended for inclusion following separate hearings by both Historic Preservation, and Planning and Zoning Commissions, and awaits a hearing before the Board of Commissioners. Next, the East Second Street area has been recommended for inclusion by the Historic Preservation Commission and the issue will then be heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Finally, the "Washington corridor" will soon be scheduled for initial consideration by the Historic Preservation Commission. To our knowledge, dates have not yet been set for the upcoming hearings. 🍀

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